

ASIA OCEANIA MARIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (AOMC)

**Lipa City, Philippines
September 12 to 16, 2009**

Title:

Mary and the Re-Evangelization of Asia: Forerunner, Witness and Fullness

There is indeed an intimate link between Mary and evangelization. Mary becomes a powerful model of Evangelization especially at the annunciation/visitation, at Cana, at Calvary and on Pentecost.

As Mary was deeply contemplative in understanding the will of God and also so active in proclaiming the Good News by her very life, I think that Evangelization has both an inward and an outward direction. Inwardly, it calls for the continued receiving of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our ongoing conversion both individually and as a Church. Outwardly, it addresses those who have not heard the Gospel, or having heard it, have stopped practicing their faith, and those who seek the fullness of faith.

Pope John Paul II has reminded us that "Evangelization is the most powerful and stirring challenge which the Church has been called to from her very beginning" (*Veritatis splendor*, 106). This flows from the mandate of Christ to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15).

There is great deal of interest in evangelization and "new evangelization" or "re-evangelization" today. Bishops, priests, religious institutes, and the lay faithful have demonstrated a genuine desire to respond positively to this challenge to evangelize and re-evangelize. The most fundamental and necessary element in our evangelization in the foot steps of Mary is the absolute necessity and prerequisite for the personal holiness (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nn. 2013-2014). To be an effective witness of the Gospel entails more "being" than "doing." We hope that this Mariological conference would give us this preparation and encouragement for re-evangelizing Asia. Thus Mary becomes our *sterling model* for re-evangelization in Asia, as she is the "*Star of re-evangelization*".

THE FLOW OF THE PROGRAMME

The AOMC opens on September 12, 2009 coinciding with the 6th National Day of Pilgrimage to Lipa.

The first working day of the conference (September 13) will focus on "forerunner"-- Mary is the forerunner of evangelization as dialogue. It is Mary who prepares the way for Jesus her Son. Her dialogue with the Angel in Luke 1:26-38 will be the biblical basis.

The second day (September 14) will focus on “witness”. This will focus on the role of Mary in social transformation. Day Two will focus on “Magnificat in the context of the Visitation” and how true Marian devotion must be a tool for the reign of justice and peace in the world. This is active contemplation and contemplative action. Mary leads us to prayer and action. The mission of justice is at the heart of authentic evangelization.

The third day (September 15) will focus on “fullness”. Mary leads us to holiness. Her perennial call for penance and prayer and conversion is the path that leads to holiness. This will be a meditation on Mary at the foot of the Cross, Mary Mother of the Church leads us to charity which is the fullness of holiness. Our minds turn to the image of Our Lady of Sorrows whose feast is today.

For each of the three days, the three talks will use the framework of Scripture-Magisterium-Anthropology.

We conclude with a concelebrated Eucharist at the Lipa Metropolitan Cathedral on September 16 morning.

Schedule for the “Working Days”

September 13: *Mary as Forerunner of Evangelization as Dialogue*

Speaker One HOMILY: From the Scriptures (Annunciation Lk 1:26-38)

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, Lipa

Speaker Two AM: From the Magisterium (Lumen Gentium, 8)

Fr Catalino Arevalo, SJ

Speaker Three PM : From the Asian-Australian Experience (Anthropological and Devotional)

Sr Isabel Naumann (Annunciation Narrative as Model of Dialogue)

Father R.K Sammy, President Marian Academy of India (Cultural Dialogue)

Afternoon Workshop with Lectio Divina

Fr. Martín Carbajo, OFM (Mary as model of dialogue and hospitality)

Evening Prayer and Synthesis

September 14: *Mary as Witness of Evangelization: Marian Popular Devotions*

Speaker One HOMILY: From the Scripture (Visitation and Magnificat: Blending of Contemplation and Prophetic Mission) Contemplative action and active contemplation

Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle

Speaker Two AM: From the Magisterium: **Fr. Denis Kulandaisamy, osm “Marianum” Theological Faculty, Rome**

Speaker Three PM: From the Asian Context (Philippines, China)

Anthropological and Devotional

Miss Jo Manabat (Marian Devotion and Liturgy)

Sr Celia Chua (Mary, the Communion of Saints and
the Veneration of Ancestors in China)

Afternoon Workshop with Lectio Divina

Evening Prayer and Synthesis of the Day

September 15: *Mary as Fullness of Evangelization: Call to Holiness*

Speaker One HOMILY: From the Scriptures: Mary at the Foot of the Cross-
-Mother of the Church in John 19:25-27

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo OMI

Secretary General

Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences

Speaker Two AM: From the Magisterium: *Deus Caritas Est* “Charity is the
fullness of Christian holiness

Speaker: Father R.K Sammy, President Marian Academy
of India

Speaker Three PM: From the Asian Context (Nagasaki, Schonstat)

Anthropological and Devotional

Filipina Sister to give 5 minute power point on Schonstat

Sr Oka from Nagasaki to share on Nagasaki context

Afternoon Workshop with Lectio Divina

Evening Prayers and Synthesis of the Day

Inasmuch as we will limit the participants to fifty excluding the officers and speakers, the plenary will be given a chance to react to both the morning and afternoon inputs.

September 16: Departure for Manila Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at 7:00 am. The Closing Mass will be at 10:00 am presided by the Archbishop of Manila. The focus will be “ *Mary and the Catholic Universities at the Service of Evangelization*” The Philippine bishops and presidents of Catholic colleges and universities will attend.

Venue

The proposed venue is Tagaytay Highlands in Talisay, Batangas Archdiocese of Lipa

Logistics

The Philippine group will sponsor free board and lodging and all conference materials. Transportation within the Philippines will be handled by the Philippine group including airport transfers if the flight information will be submitted on time.

The foreign participants will take care of their transportation to and from the Philippines.